



Arizona Department of Education  
Tom Horne, Superintendent of Public Instruction

# La Paz County

ARIZONA ADULT EDUCATION

Program Year  
**2008-2009**



*Adult Education delivers literacy services to out-of-school adults who are 16 years of age and older and who are not enrolled in a K-12 school.*

In Arizona, only providers who meet rigorous standards and produce positive student outcomes are funded. **La Paz Career Center** is the program certified to provide Adult Education throughout La Paz County. The Arizona Department of Education – Adult Education Services allocated **\$85,000** to La Paz County for adult education services for the Program Year 2008-2009.

## The Need for Adult Education in La Paz County

The 2006-2008 American Community Survey estimates the population of La Paz County to be 20,086. 82% of the population (16,355) is 18 years of age and older. Of these, over 24% (almost 4,000) lacked a high school credential. Over 16% (150+) of the population 16 to 19 years of age were not enrolled in school and did not possess a high school credential.

Per the 2000 Census, 6% of the population 18 to 64 spoke English “not well” or “not at all.”



## La Paz County Adult Education Data ■ Program Year 2008-2009

- 74 adults registered in Adult Education classes
- 4,567 instructional hours were provided in Adult Education classes
- \$18.63 of Adult Education funding was expended per instructional hour
- \$1,49.58 of Adult Education funding was expended per student *(compared to over \$6,000 per K-12 student)*
- 57% improved more than two grade levels
- 91% who sought a high school equivalency credential passed the GED® Test and earned a diploma
- 90% who sought a job found employment
- 86% who attended classes to retain their job or improve their employment were successful
- 88% who wanted to enter post-secondary education or training went on to further education
- **GED® Testing Data:** 28 Arizona High School Equivalency Diplomas were issued.

LaPaz County was an early leader in linking Adult Education and Workforce Development. In the 2008-2009 program year, the La Paz Career Center received \$58,811 in performance based incentive funding to integrate Adult Education and Post-secondary training in the Allied Healthcare field for the residents of LaPaz County. Lessons learned from the LaPaz County model have been implemented in Arizona's statewide initiative that links Adult Education and Post-secondary training in targeted high-demand industries.



Data provided by Arizona Department of Education, Adult Education Services

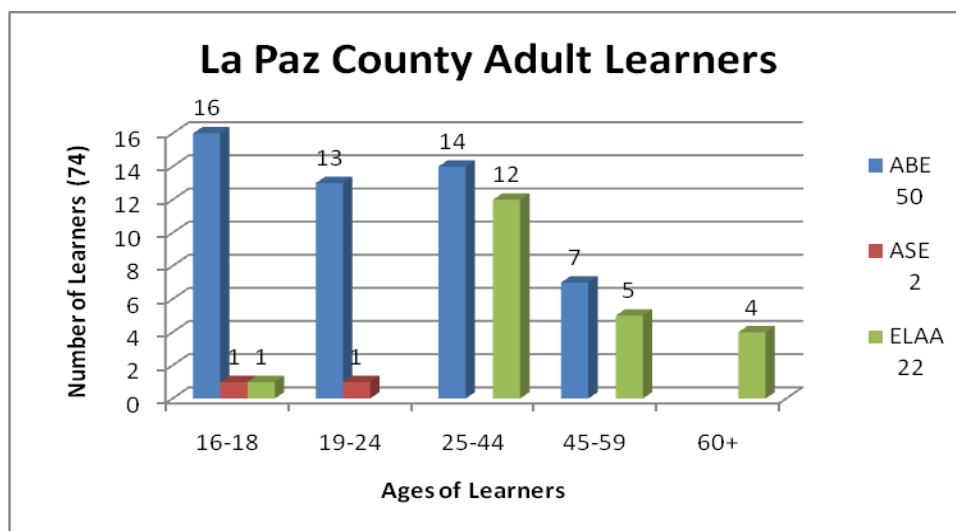
[www.ade.az.gov/adult-ed](http://www.ade.az.gov/adult-ed)



## SNAPSHOT: Adult Education In La Paz County

- ▶ The U.S. Department of Labor-Bureau of Labor Statistics has determined the 2008 median annual earnings difference between no diploma and a high school credential to be \$8,580. The 28 individuals in La Paz County earning a GED® represent a potential increase in taxable income of over \$240,000.
- ▶ 35% of adult learners in La Paz County are between the ages of 25 and 44.
- ▶ 54% of adult learners in La Paz County are employed.
- ▶ Of the population 18 and over representing child-bearing and employment ages in La Paz County, 24% (3,912) have no secondary credential. The 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy research confirms once again that the educational attainment of the parents, particularly that of the mother, has a direct bearing on the educational achievement of a child.
- ▶ Almost 2,700 students were enrolled in public pre-school through high school during the 2008-2009 school year. La Paz County reported 809 high school students (Grades 9-12) and a dropout rate in 2007-2008 of 5.7% (78) for 7<sup>th</sup> through 12 graders. ADE-AES served 32 people under the age of 25, of whom 84% (27) were between ages 16 and 21.
- ▶ 74 adults enrolled in Adult Education classes of which 70% (52) had reading, writing, and/or math proficiency skill levels at eighth grade or below.

**Improving an adult's skills in reading, writing and/or math significantly increases an individual's earning potential and ultimate contributions as a family, workforce, and community member.**



■ **ABE = Adult Basic Education**  
Instruction in reading, writing, and math through 8<sup>th</sup> grade level

■ **ASE = Adult Secondary Education**  
Instruction in reading, writing, math, science and social studies  
May lead to attainment of a high school equivalency diploma

■ **ELAA = English Language Acquisition for Adults**

**Note:** EL/Civics English Literacy Civics Education is integrated throughout Arizona Adult Education programming